IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20 as follows:

The liquid delivery means 32 includes a pipette carrier 33 which carries the eight liquid delivery outlets 34. The outlets can receive either plain tips or zip tips 30. Each liquid delivery outlet is connected to a liquid handler 38 by a short length of tubing 58 so as to be able to dispense and aspirate water. The liquid handler comprises eight parallel bi-directional liquid-handling syringes 40. As is schematically illustrated in FIG. 3 each syringe is connected via a bi-directional valve 42 to tubing 41 connected to a reservoir 64 or to tubing 58 connected to one of the probes as shown in FIG. 3, depending on the state of the valve. The body of the syringe is fixed and the actuator/piston rod 48 is moveably by a W axis actuator 48 which draws liquid into, and expels liquid from the syringe.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1 as follows:

The liquid-handling syringes are ganged together and actuated by the W axis robot. A gel cutting syringe which supplies water to the gel during cutting operations is also ganged together with the liquid-handling syringes. The valves operate in parallel under control of the control means. The syringes are connected to the W axis via a clutch 62. All the syringes are actuated by the same robot. If the clutch were not provided the liquid-handling syringes would operate every time the gel cutting syringe operated. Although this would not affect the process of liquid handling because the valves determine the fluid flow, it would result in substantially more wear and tear on the liquid-handling syringes hence the clutch disengages during gel cuffing. In an alternative embodiment however the clutch can be omitted.